

What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

[View this email in your browser](#)



Newsletter #66:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello everyone! Last week was very busy with the Chicago Coin Expo and this week brought many dealers back for the Central States coin show. Central States, held in Schaumburg, a Chicago suburb, has been a popular show primarily for U.S., world and paper money. There are ancient dealers that do attend as well. After a somewhat weak turnout at the Chicago Coin Expo this last week someone mentioned to me that perhaps the two shows should work in tandem. It's not a bad idea I think. I'm sure dealers would be thrilled to be able to have one large show versus two smaller ones. I'm curious what you think. Since I know the folks that run the show (wink, wink) maybe I'll pass on your thoughts. I would love to have a successful show in Chicago. I think Chicago is a pretty convenient place in the U.S. for a coin show. It is good for Europeans and it is good for people coming from the west coast. We should all try to make it work if we can, customers and dealers alike. If anyone has suggestions on what would make it better I'd be interested to know. If you are a dealer tell me why you would or wouldn't attend the show and for collectors why you would or wouldn't come.

An aside note: On Wednesday morning I remotely attended the DNW auction. There was a moment of silence and a beautiful tribute to John Pett, who died last Sunday. Those that knew Mr. Pett, formerly of Spink & Son, were fond of him. I'm sure the news has spread that he has passed but I thought I would make a short mention.

Another important figure in numismatics, Dr. Ted Buttrey, also passed away recently. Arturo Russo dedicates catalog 106 to Ted and wrote a lovely tribute. I was lucky enough to know Dr. Buttrey and found him to be a very nice man. I was sorry to hear he passed away.

In preparation for the Swiss auctions, which I will be attending, I'd like to highlight those upcoming auctions a little more detail in the next few newsletters. This week I'll discuss NAC since there is much too much to say about all three auctions.

NAC 105, 106 and 106 part 2 (May 9-10)

NAC has a very interesting selection of smaller collections that make up their three catalogs.

NAC 105, the first catalog, is exclusively Roman aurei from the George La Borde collection. Mr. La Borde, a Canadian collector and oil man, focussed his collecting interest solely on Roman gold. This is the third and last installment of La Borde's impressive group assembled over the last years with the help of his advisor Hadrien Rambach. Along with quality and rarity, Hadrien advised Mr. La Borde that buying pedigreed coins was advantageous. His advice foreshadowed the strong push nowadays to buy coins from old collections whenever possible. As part of the catalog, Hadrien provided a lengthy section on collections from the past. While most of the information can be found through internet searches, Hadrien put it all in one place which is wonderful for collectors and dealers alike.

There are several coins in the auction that deserve mention. Lot 6 is an aureus of Brutus and his fellow moneyer Cornelius Lentulus Spinther. Aside from the extreme rarity of the type it also has an illustrious pedigree going back to Apostolo Zeno (1668-1750). The coin has been sold several times over years and landed in some of the more impressive auction houses and collectors (e.g. Cahn, Biaggi, Hunt, Witschonke and Feirstein). While this coin may seem to have been sold a number of times, each collector (with the exception of Cahn who sold the coin to Biaggi) held the coin for a number of years.

Lot 23 is a fabulous example of Domitian with rainbow toning that suggests that the coin came from the Boscoreale hoard. The Boscoreale treasure was found in a villa near Pompeii in southern Italy in 1876 but the real excavation work began in 1895 where over 1,000 gold coins were found along with jewelry and silver tableware. In 79 AD, the city of Pompeii was destroyed by a volcano. The coins from the hoard, covered in ash for centuries were found with a beautiful reddish hue which obviously were a result of the volcanic soil. Coins from the Boscoreale hoard are highly prized and this one is absolutely stunning.

The Severan coins, Lots 56-66, are among the most impressive in this catalog. Many of these coins are in pristine condition and come from early hoards or well-known collections. Lot 64 is an extremely rare left facing portrait of Geta, the younger son of Septimius Severus, who died in the arms of his mother, ordered by his brother Caracalla.

There are so many other pieces of interest in this catalog so even if you don't bid please take the time to look through it.

NAC 106 features three distinct collections. The first part of the catalog offers an amazing array of impressive and rarely offered pedigreed coins. Lot 181, a Naxos tetradrachm that has a pedigree back to 1907, was one that immediately caught my eye. I remember being a little girl and my father showing me this coin. Even as a child I was impressed by the beautiful classical Greek style. Another rarely seen coin is the famous Demareteion tetradrachm, lot 190. This early type from Syracuse is named and has been attributed to a specific die engraver, Demareteion. This particular coin was from the wildly popular Kunstfreund collection (for those non-German speakers, Kunstfreund translates into "friend of art") which was auctioned off in 1974. Speaking of Kunstfreund, I had lunch today with my friend Carl Subak who knew the man Charles Gillet, Mr. Kunstfreund himself. Mr. Gillet (1879-1972) was born in Lyon, France. In addition to his amazing coin collection he also collected tiles and donated them to his birthplace of Lyon when it was utterly destroyed during WWII. A portion of his massive collection was sold in public auction in a joint sale with Leu and Münzen und Medaillen in 1974. A Kunstfreund pedigree suggests beauty quality at the highest level.

One will also notice several Greek coins that have a pedigree of Harald Salvesen (1928–2016). Many dealers knew Harald very well as he was a fixture at auctions over the years. His tastes were impeccable. I am attaching an article that Ursula Kampmann wrote in *Coinsweekly* after Mr. Salvesen died. She mentioned an Athenian didrachm in her small tribute. She must have been referring to lot 226 in this auction. After Salvesen sold the piece it ended up with my father Harlan Berk who sold it to an unknown collector in 1989 at the NY International.

<http://www.coinsweekly.com/en/News/Harald-Salvesen-1928-2016/4?&id=4282>

There is a fantastic group of Cypriot coins (Part I, so I assume Part II will be forthcoming in later auctions). There are a few touching tributes at the beginning of the catalog by Anne Destrooper-Georgiades and Arturo Russo that describe this passionate collector. Cypriot coins became increasingly difficult to obtain due to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that went into effect in August 2006. Therefore, having a collection like this be offered is truly a gift to today's collectors. All these coins were legally exported out of Cyprus and can be imported into the U.S. without issue.

The last collection I would like to mention is the "Collection of a Perfectionist of Roman Imperial Silver Coins". I can honestly say that I couldn't agree more on the title of this collection. It is impeccable. Whoever this collector was, he or she had a great eye. As I paged through the catalog I literally couldn't find one coin that wasn't perfectly centered and in EF or Mint State condition. Many collectors have to give on quality at one time or another to get a type. This collector was a patient person as the coins reflect his care in assembling the collection.

The last catalog, 106 Part II, is not one person's collection but a varied group of offerings of Greek, Roman and Byzantine coins. Paging through this catalog I found several compelling pieces. Sometimes at the end of an auction you see people slowly starting to leave. I can't imagine this happening at this impressive auction put on by NAC this coming May.



Coin of the Week

<https://www.shannaschmidt.com/roman-republic/rr1068>

ROMAN REPUBLIC. L. Hostilius Saserna. Rome, 48 BC

AR Denarius, 4.04g (19mm, 12h). Female head r., wearing oak wreath. Rev. L·HOSTILIVS SASERNA Victory advancing r., holding caduceus and palm branch

Pedigree: Ex Sotheby's, 28 October 1993, lot 1342

Price: \$2,000

Michael Crawford (citing T.P. Wiseman) notes in his book that it is not certain which of the three Saserna brothers that this coin was struck. All three were active in government at the same time. What is certain is that L. Hostilius Saserna denarii celebrate the Roman victory over Gaul. Likely the more notable type that comes from this moneyer is one with a long-haired male warrior, termed by many as 'Vercingetorix'. To be sure, there was an actual Vercingetorix but it is not certain that the warrior on the coinage is the same man. There is also a female warrior on another version to compliment the male counterpart. This issue has an obverse head type that is similar to Caesar's own issues. The reverse trophy mirrors the trophy that Caesar employed on his coinage celebrating the same victory.

References: Babelon Hostilia 5. Sydenham 951. Sear Imperators 17. Crawford 448/1a

Grade: Some minor surface abrasions and hairline scratches. A few patches of encrustation at 11h and 12h on reverse with minor surface abrasions. Slightly off center. Nice toning. aEF

rr1068

<https://www.shannaschmidt.com/roman-republic/rr1068>

If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

Copyright © 2018 Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc., All rights reserved.

www.shannaschmidt.com

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

This email was sent to leonard.augsburger@wustl.edu
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. · 159 N. Marion Street, PMB 321 · Oak Park, Illinois 60301-1032 · USA

The MailChimp logo is centered within a light gray rectangular box. The logo itself is written in a white, cursive script font.